

8. (Amended) A garment made of a fabric construction that has a high degree of colorfastness and a soft hand, said fabric construction formed by a process comprising the steps of:

- (a) printing disperse dyes on a synthetic-rich fabric, the synthetic-rich fabric having been pre-treated with a wicking agent; and
- (b) fixing the dyestuffs to the fabric by heating the fabric at a preselected temperature and for a preselected time, wherein the finished dyed fabric has a crocking index of at least 4.0 and a soft hand.

16. (Amended) A method of forming a printed fabric that has a high dye fixation and a soft hand, comprising:

- (a) printing disperse dyes on a synthetic-rich fabric, the synthetic-rich fabric having been pre-treated with a wicking agent; and
- (b) fixing the disperse dyes to the fabric by heating the fabric at a preselected temperature and for a preselected time, wherein the finished dyed fabric has a dry crocking index of at least 4.0 and a soft hand.

Remarks

Claims 1-22 stand rejected. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1, 4-8, 10-14, 16, and 19-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Rodrigues (U.S. Patent No. 6,046,120). Claims 2, 9, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rodrigues as applied to Claims 1, 4-8, 10-14, 16, and 19-22, and further in view of Matsuba et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,101,273).

Applicant appreciates the courtesies extended to Applicant's counsel during the interview held on May 21, 2003 with Examiners Cole and Torres-Velazquez. As a result of that interview, the following remarks are provided.